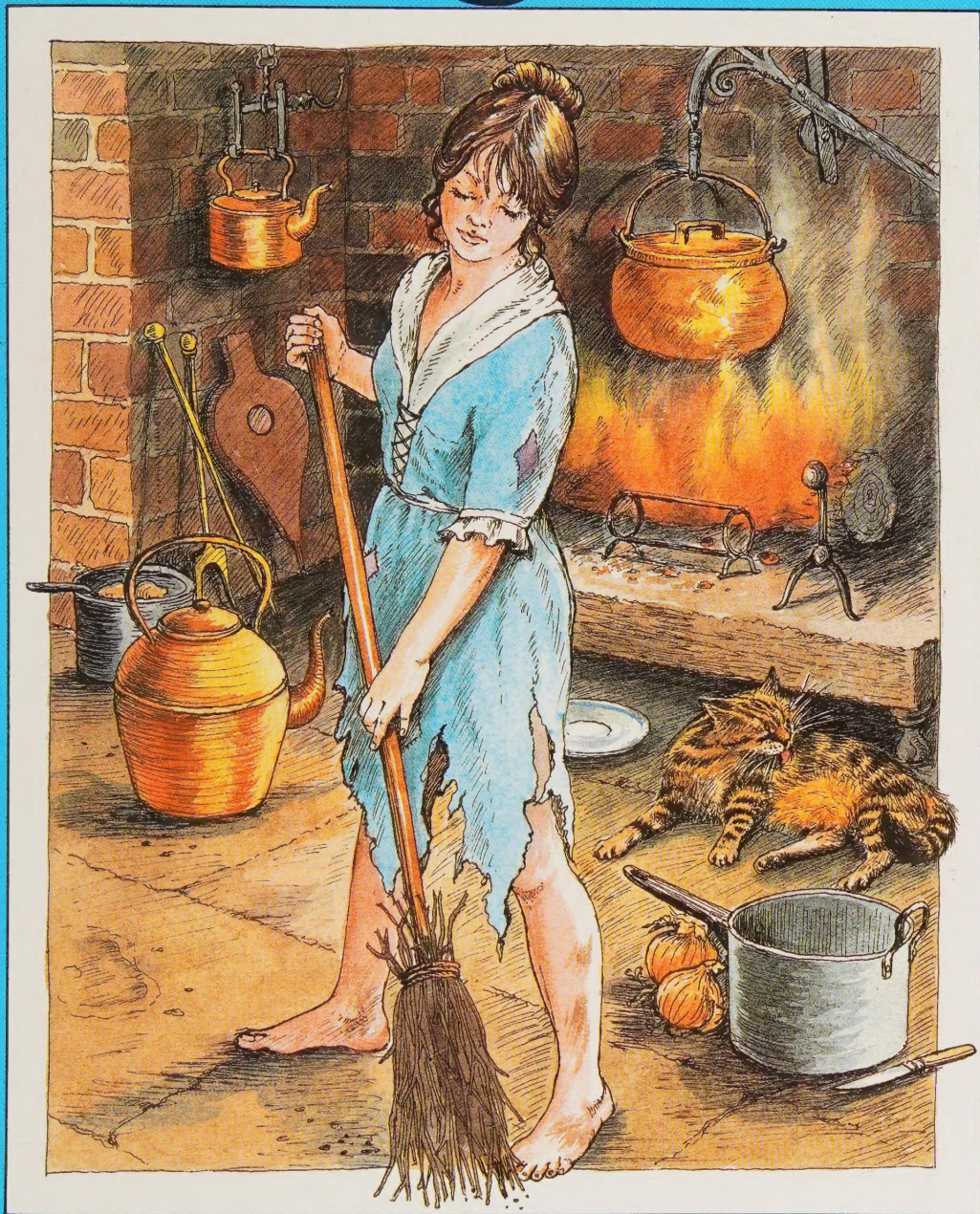


READ ME A STORY



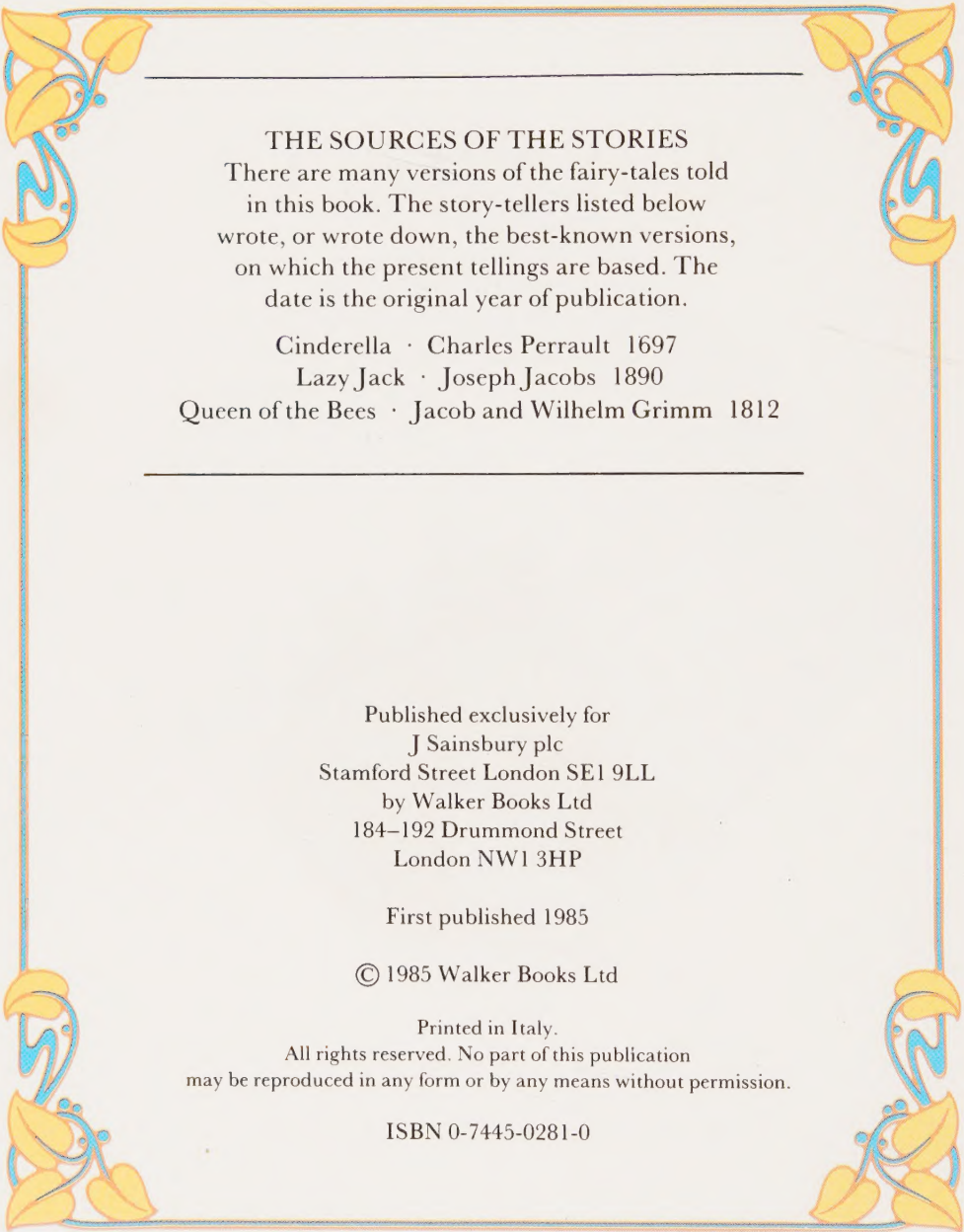
# CINDERELLA

AND OTHER STORIES









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### THE SOURCES OF THE STORIES

There are many versions of the fairy-tales told in this book. The story-tellers listed below wrote, or wrote down, the best-known versions, on which the present tellings are based. The date is the original year of publication.

Cinderella · Charles Perrault 1697  
Lazy Jack · Joseph Jacobs 1890  
Queen of the Bees · Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm 1812

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# CINDERELLA

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LAZY JACK

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QUEEN OF THE BEES

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Retold by Sarah Hayes

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Illustrated by Gill Tomblin

SAINSBURY'S · WALKER BOOKS



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## CINDERELLA

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Once there was a merchant who decided to marry again. His first wife had died long ago, and he felt that his only daughter needed a mother. But his second wife was very different from the first. She was proud and bossy, and she had two daughters who were exactly like her. The merchant's daughter was kind and gentle, which infuriated her stepmother because it showed up the bad manners of her own daughters.

The stepmother did everything she could to make her stepdaughter's life a misery. The poor girl was made to wash the clothes, scrub the floors, do the dishes and sweep the stairs. She slept on a straw mattress in the attic, while her stepsisters had grand rooms with four-poster beds and mirrors from floor to ceiling.







At the end of the day she would creep into the seat in the chimney corner and warm herself by the cinders of the fire. Javotte, the elder stepsister, used to call her Cinderkin, but Claudette, the younger sister, called her Cinderella, and this became her name.

The merchant was afraid of his new wife, and Cinderella knew that if she complained it would only make him unhappy, so she never said a word. As the weeks passed, her clothes grew more and more ragged and her hands became rough, but she still remained a thousand times more beautiful than her sisters.

One morning Cinderella came downstairs to find the household in an uproar. The king was giving a grand ball for his son and everyone of any importance had been invited. The stepsisters were quarrelling about what they were going to wear.

‘I think I shall wear my red brocade with the lace edging,’ said Claudette. ‘Cinderella, this lace needs mending.’







Javotte was holding up a flounced petticoat covered in bows. ‘I’ve only got this old petticoat,’ she wailed. ‘But my new gold cape can go over it, and I could wear my diamond necklace.’

‘But what about my hair!’ shrieked Claudette. ‘Cinderella, my hair!’ Wearily Cinderella picked up the clothes her sisters had dropped.

Then she began to brush Claudette's hair.

'And what will you wear for the ball, Cinderella?' asked Javotte. The stepsisters began to titter.

'Rags and tatters are all the rage,' said Claudette.

'You are teasing me, Sisters,' said Cinderella quietly. 'How can I go to the ball?'

'How can you indeed,' replied Claudette. 'Go fetch my patches instead, and be quick about it.'

'No, no, find my curl-papers!' cried Javotte, and the sisters began to squabble again.

For two days Cinderella fetched and carried for the sisters and bore all their rudeness and ill temper without complaint. But when she

had waved off the carriage which had been hired to take her father and sisters to the ball, she sat down in the chimney corner and wept. 'How I wish . . . I wish . . .' she sobbed.







‘You wish you could go to the ball, and so you will,’ said a voice close by. Cinderella looked up and saw an old woman standing by the chimney, leaning on a stick. ‘I am your fairy godmother and this stick is my wand,’ she said. ‘Now be a good girl and go into the garden and find a pumpkin.’

Cinderella was too surprised to reply, but she did as she was told and soon found a fine big pumpkin. The old woman tapped it with her stick. With a flash the pumpkin changed into a magnificent golden coach.

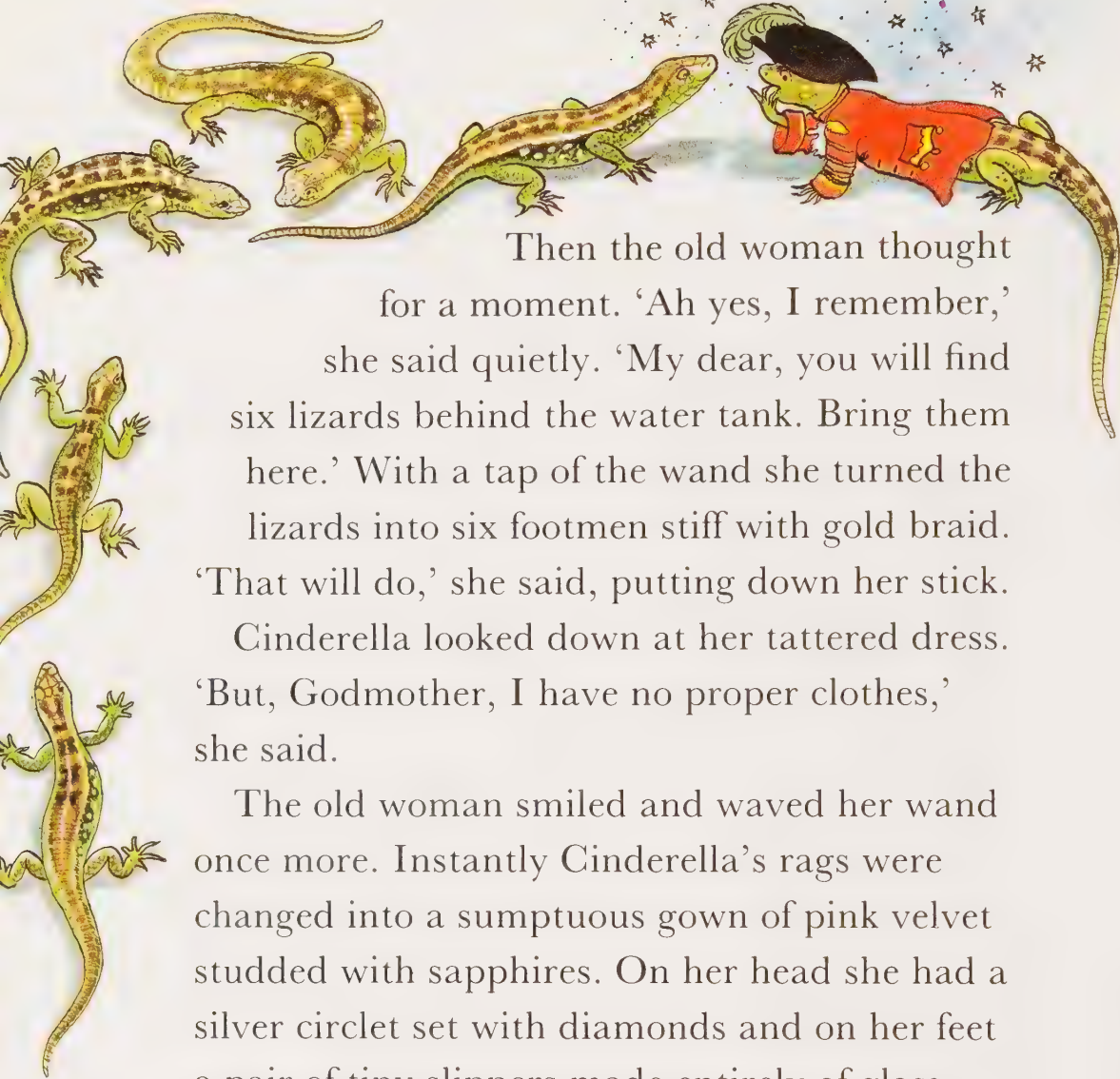
‘Now fetch me the mousetrap from the stables,’ said the old woman. In a minute Cinderella was back with the trap, which held six scurrying grey mice. As each mouse came out of the trap, the old woman tapped it on the nose and turned it into a horse. Soon six dappled coach horses of an elegant grey stood pawing the ground before her.

‘Now for the coachman,’ said the old woman. ‘Find me the rat trap.’ There were three fat rats in the trap. The old woman chose the one with the longest whiskers. She tapped him on the nose with her stick and up stood a fat coachman with a long curly moustache.









Then the old woman thought for a moment. 'Ah yes, I remember,' she said quietly. 'My dear, you will find six lizards behind the water tank. Bring them here.' With a tap of the wand she turned the lizards into six footmen stiff with gold braid. 'That will do,' she said, putting down her stick. Cinderella looked down at her tattered dress. 'But, Godmother, I have no proper clothes,' she said.

The old woman smiled and waved her wand once more. Instantly Cinderella's rags were changed into a sumptuous gown of pink velvet studded with sapphires. On her head she had a silver circlet set with diamonds and on her feet a pair of tiny slippers made entirely of glass.

'Now you may go to the ball, my dear,' said the old woman. 'But do not stay later than midnight. When the clock strikes twelve, your coach will turn back into a pumpkin and you will be Cinderella again.'







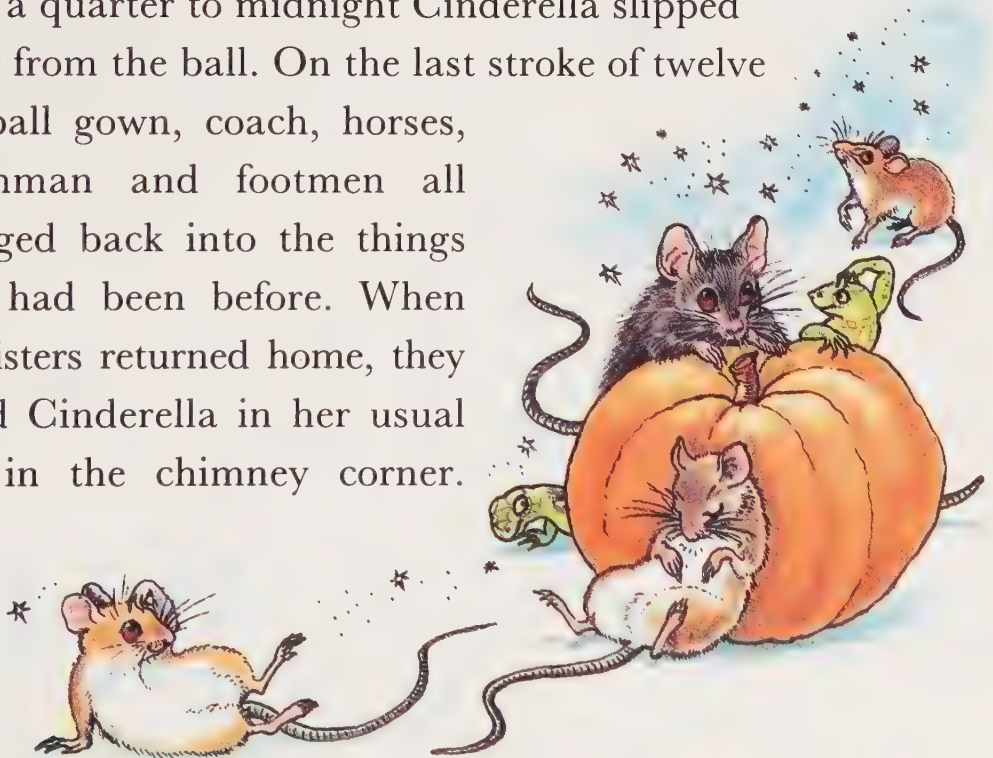
The ball had already begun when Cinderella arrived. As she entered the ballroom with a footman holding the train of her dress, all eyes turned to look at her. The orchestra stopped playing. The prince had never seen such a



beautiful girl. He stepped forward and asked her to dance. The room began to hum with questions: Who was she? What was her name? Was she a princess? Who dressed her hair? Who made her gown?

For the rest of the evening the prince danced with Cinderella. She left his side only once, to speak to her stepsisters, who blushed and giggled and curtsied far too often. Not for one moment did Claudette and Javotte suspect that the beautiful princess was their own bedraggled little stepsister.

At a quarter to midnight Cinderella slipped away from the ball. On the last stroke of twelve the ball gown, coach, horses, coachman and footmen all changed back into the things they had been before. When the sisters returned home, they found Cinderella in her usual seat in the chimney corner.



Claudette and Javotte spoke of nothing but the unknown princess: how beautiful she was, how taken the prince had been with her and how gracious she had been to them in particular. 'What was her name?' asked Cinderella.

'That was the odd thing,' said Claudette. 'No one seemed to know.' Cinderella smiled and climbed the stairs to her attic bedroom.

The following day a second ball was announced, for the prince longed to see the unknown princess again. This time the fairy godmother gave Cinderella a dress made of silver studded with pearls. Again she arrived late at the ball, and again the prince danced with no one else. The hours passed so quickly that it was almost midnight before Cinderella left. Her clothes had turned to rags before she reached home.

The following day the prince announced a third ball, and this time the old woman gave Cinderella a dress of cloth of gold set with diamonds. Everything happened as before, but





Cinderella forgot to look at the time and suddenly she heard the clock beginning to strike twelve. She tore herself from the prince's arms and ran out of the ballroom. As she hurried down the steps, one of the glass slippers came off, but she could not stop to pick it up and ran on towards the palace gate.

When the prince asked the guards at the gate if they had seen the princess's coach departing, all they could do was shake their heads. The only person they had seen was a peasant girl running along with a pumpkin and a cage of mice in her arms.

The prince was in despair. He sat up all night gazing at the glass slipper. In the morning he summoned all the princesses in the land to come and try on the slipper; then all the duchesses and viscountesses; then all the ladies of the court. The glass slipper did not fit any of them. The prince ordered his chamberlain to search the town; every house was to be visited and every girl asked to try on the slipper.







When the chamberlain arrived at Cinderella's house, the stepsisters pushed and jostled to be the first to try on the slipper. Claudette curled up her toes, but her feet were far too long. Javotte pinched her heels, but her feet were far too broad.

'Is that your other daughter?' the chamberlain asked the merchant.

'Oh, she's only a cinderkin,' said Javotte before her father could reply.

'Hardly more than a servant,' added Claudette. But the chamberlain had noticed the beauty of the girl who sat in the chimney corner in rags. He handed Cinderella the slipper and she put it on.



It fitted perfectly. Cinderella put her hand in her apron pocket and drew out the other slipper. At that moment her fairy godmother appeared and touched Cinderella with her wand, turning her rags into a dress of white silk woven with moonbeams. Claudette and Javotte fell at her feet and begged for forgiveness.





Now Cinderella was as kind and generous as she was beautiful, so she immediately forgave her sisters. What is more, she found husbands for them from the gentlemen of the court. As for Cinderella herself, she and the prince were married that day, and they lived happily ever after.



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## LAZY JACK

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There was once a boy who never did any work. Everyone called him Lazy Jack. In summer he lay in the sunshine. In winter he sat by the fire. Eventually he made his mother so angry she threatened to turn him out of the house.

So Lazy Jack went to work for a farmer. At the end of a week the farmer gave him a penny. Not knowing about money, Jack was careless and lost his penny crossing a stream on the way home.

‘Silly boy,’ said his mother. ‘You should have put it carefully in your pocket.’

‘I’ll know better next time, Mother,’ said Lazy Jack.







The following day he went to work for a dairyman. At the end of a week the dairyman gave him a jug of milk. Jack put the jug carefully in his pocket, but on the way home all the milk spilled out and ran down his trousers.

‘Fool,’ said his mother. ‘You should have balanced it on your head.’

‘I’ll know better next time, Mother,’ said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a cheeseman. At the end of a week the cheeseman gave Jack a soft cream cheese which he balanced on his head before he set off for home. By the time he arrived there, some of the cheese had fallen off, some had run down his cheeks and some had got stuck in his hair.

‘Idiot!’ cried his mother. ‘You should have carried it in your hands.’

‘I’ll know better next time, Mother,’ said Lazy Jack.



The following day he went to work for a baker. At the end of a week the baker gave him a tom-cat. Jack picked up the cat and carried it in his hands. Before he had gone far, the cat scratched him so badly that Jack let go and it ran away.

‘You great dunderhead!’ shouted his mother. ‘You should have tied a string round it and pulled it along.’

‘I’ll know better next time, Mother,’ said Lazy Jack.

The following day he went to work for a butcher. At the end of a week the butcher gave him a fine leg of mutton. Jack tied a piece of string round the leg of mutton and dragged it along. By the time he came home, the mutton was all muddy and spoiled.

‘You ninnyhammer!’ roared his mother. ‘You should have carried it on your back.’

‘I’ll know better next time, Mother,’ said Lazy Jack.







The following day he went to work for a herdsman. At the end of a week the herdsman gave him a donkey for his labours. With great difficulty Jack hoisted the donkey onto his back.

As he was staggering home, a splendid carriage passed him on the road. The carriage belonged to a rich man's daughter who had been deaf and dumb since birth. Doctors had said she would never be able to speak unless she learned how to laugh.

When the rich man's daughter saw Jack groaning and lurching along with the donkey's legs waving in the air, she burst into peals of laughter. Then she began to speak. The rich man was so grateful that he gave Lazy Jack his daughter's hand in marriage. Jack became so rich that he never had to do another day's work in his life, which pleased everybody, especially his mother.





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## QUEEN OF THE BEES

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There was once a king who had three sons. The older brothers left home to seek their fortune, but Simpleton, the youngest, stayed behind because he was not very clever. After a year had passed and the brothers had not returned, Simpleton decided to go in search of them. When he found them, the brothers began to laugh at him. ‘You had better come along with us, Simpleton,’ they said, ‘for you’ll never get anywhere if we leave you on your own.’

So the three brothers went on together. As they were walking along, the oldest brother saw an ant hill by the roadside. ‘Let us find a stick and poke the ants so that we can see them scurrying about,’ he said.



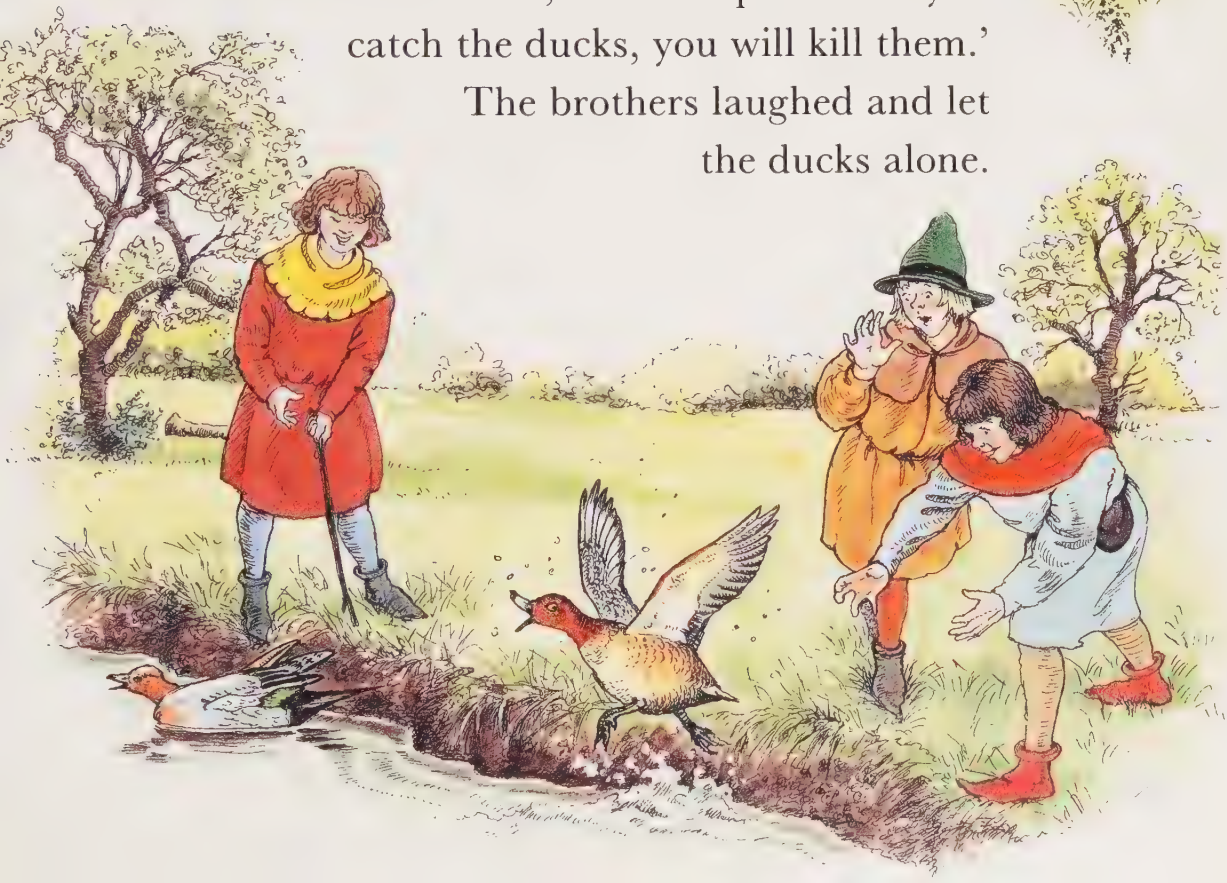
‘Leave them be,’ said Simpleton. ‘If you poke the ants, you will kill them.’

The brothers laughed and let the ants alone.

When evening came, they stopped by a lake where many ducks were swimming. ‘Let us catch a couple and roast them for supper,’ said the second brother.

‘Leave them be,’ said Simpleton. ‘If you catch the ducks, you will kill them.’

The brothers laughed and let the ducks alone.





On the following day they passed a bees' nest overflowing with honey.

'Let us light a fire and smoke the bees out. Then we can get the honey,' said the oldest brother.

'Leave them be,' said Simpleton. 'If you light a fire, you will suffocate the bees.'

The brothers laughed and let the bees alone.

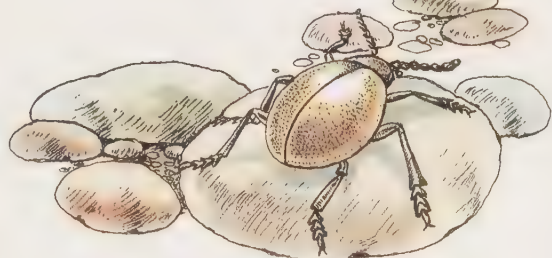
The next day the brothers came upon an enchanted castle. Everything in it had been turned to stone. Stone guards stood at the gate, stone horses reared in the stables; there was even a stone beetle crawling across the cobbles of the stone courtyard.







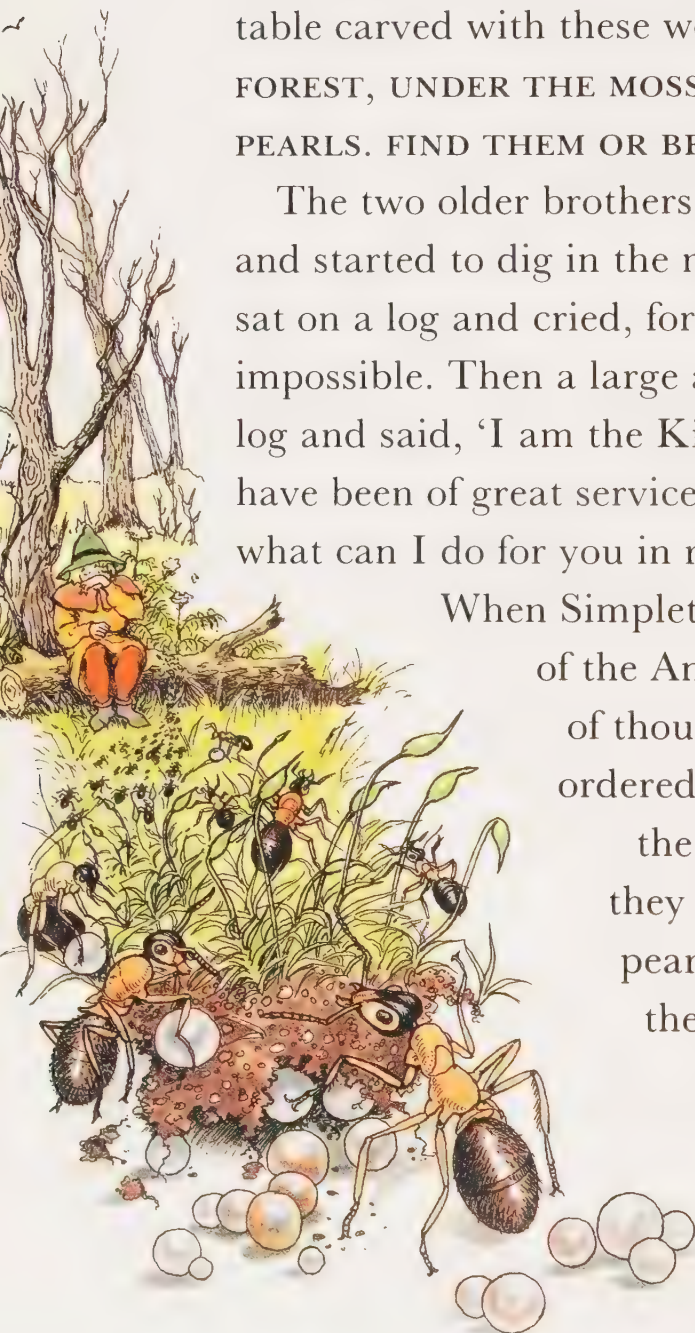
The brothers knocked loudly on the door three times and a little old man with a grey beard appeared. 'To free this castle from enchantment,' he said, 'you must perform the tasks of the stone table. If you do not, you too will be turned to stone.'



The little greybeard led them to a great antechamber and showed them a massive stone table carved with these words: OUT IN THE FOREST, UNDER THE MOSS, LIE A THOUSAND PEARLS. FIND THEM OR BE TURNED TO STONE.

The two older brothers rushed into the forest and started to dig in the moss. But Simpleton sat on a log and cried, for he knew the task was impossible. Then a large ant crawled onto the log and said, 'I am the King of the Ants. You have been of great service to my people. Now what can I do for you in return, friend of ants?'

When Simpleton told him, the King of the Ants summoned his tens of thousands of followers and ordered them to search under the moss. In half an hour they had found a thousand pearls. Simpleton thanked the King of the Ants and brought the pearls to the greybeard.

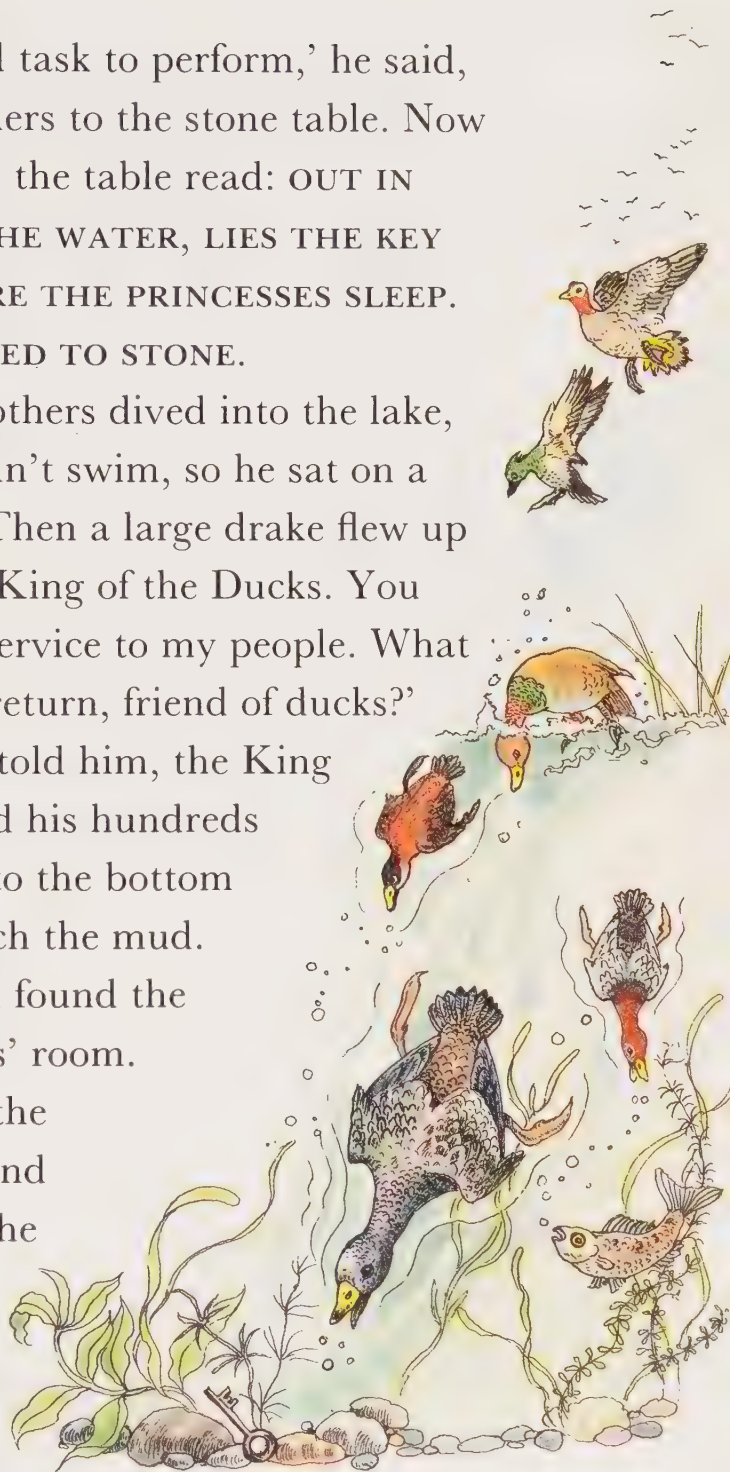




‘There is a second task to perform,’ he said, and he led the brothers to the stone table. Now the words carved on the table read: OUT IN THE LAKE, UNDER THE WATER, LIES THE KEY TO THE ROOM WHERE THE PRINCESSES SLEEP. FIND IT OR BE TURNED TO STONE.

The two older brothers dived into the lake, but Simpleton couldn’t swim, so he sat on a boulder and cried. Then a large drake flew up and said, ‘I am the King of the Ducks. You have been of great service to my people. What can I do for you in return, friend of ducks?’

When Simpleton told him, the King of the Ducks ordered his hundreds of followers to dive to the bottom of the lake and search the mud. In an hour they had found the key to the princesses’ room. Simpleton thanked the King of the Ducks and brought the key to the little greybeard.



‘There is a final task to perform,’ he said, and again led the brothers to the stone table. Now the words read: IN THEIR CHAMBER LIE THREE STONE PRINCESSES. FIND THE YOUNGEST AND FAIREST OR BE TURNED TO STONE.

‘That will be easy,’ said the older brothers. But when they saw the princesses they were dismayed, for the three stone princesses looked identical. When Simpleton saw them he cried.

At that moment a large bee flew up. ‘I am the Queen of the Bees,’ she whispered. ‘You have been of great service to my people, and I can be of use to you, friend of bees.’

The Queen of the Bees knew that before they had been turned to stone, the princesses had each tasted something sweet. The oldest had tasted sugar, the second syrup and the third and fairest had tasted honey. The Queen of the Bees flew on to the lips of each princess in turn and when she found the taste of honey, she settled. Simpleton pointed to the princess with the bee on her lips, and the spell was broken.





The castle came to life. The princesses opened their eyes and sat up. Simpleton soon married the youngest princess, and since she was her father's favourite, he also inherited the kingdom. As for his brothers, they married the two older princesses and learned to be a great deal kinder to animals.







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